

her & dances to her. Never wants
to leave her - although the door
into the hall stands open ^{& the other birds call him}. In
some respects Virginia is better.
Her flesh was so tender before this
last attack (last July 2nd) and
for many months after, that
~~we could not touch any part of~~
her without giving pain. Now
she can be touched & rubbed.
And now she can bear cold water
without shock, last summer she
could not endure a drop even on
her face. The doctor wanted
her to be bathed until he saw
that a slight application turned
her almost black with suffering
& nearly threw her into con-
vulsions. She uses it sparingly
now. But the pain in her side
increases. The doctor has said
that it would be a miracle if she
finally recovers. We have had

~~now the~~
much love from each of us to each of
you, including Uncle John & Maudie
John, Adam, Sarah, Mary, & Mary

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Dear aunts Mary and Rebecca,
May I answer
both your letters together? It has seemed
as if I never should get time for a letter.
Virginia has been very low most of
the time for weeks, is better again -
She has been so pale that you could
hardly tell which was pillow and
which was flesh - scarcely a tinge
of color in the lips even. It has
been reported in town that she had
passed away, but for the last few days
she has been gaining perceptibly -
In addition to her medicines she
takes a dry extract of Malt, pre-
pared by a German House. It is
the color of sawdust, but wonderful

nourishing. It is imported only by one
house in New York and is two dollars
a pound. She takes one teaspoonful
thrice times a day in a tumbler of
milk. She is always wanting the
time to come, it is so agreeable. I
like the taste too (Of course I only
tasted). The doctor never knew it
to fail to pay back again its cost.
Virginia needs constant attention
or she droops. I have no school
now - don't know when I can re-
sume. Either mother or I shall
have to give up school. Mother
is teaching now. I expected to
recommence right after the Fourth.
If I do, mother will have to give
up hers. We shall have to de-
termine upon which is best
to drop. About two months ago
Virginia went to ride - first time
in eleven months that she had
been able to be in a carriage, but
it was too much for her. She
was driven fifteen minutes and
the carriage ^{was very} more easier - but
the motion jarred her chest &
she caught cold besides. She
was down sick for a week & never
so well since as she was before.
She is going to try again as soon
as she can - she makes heroic
efforts to get well. Lennie passes
heavily with her, as she is not
strong enough to read much -
has not been much of this long
year of sickness. She would
like me to make fun for her every
minute. Felix is the dearest &
best of birds. Perches on her head
board, watches her while sleeping
& when she wakes flies down &
kisses her & coos over her. When
she feels worse, sings & comforts